



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 6, 2007, the Board took the following action:

56-A

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“On October 12, 2007, several agencies including the Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to a tragic fire in a truck tunnel on the Golden State Freeway near the Antelope Valley Freeway in Santa Clarita. This fire was exceptionally challenging for first responders due to the size of the fire, the limited access caused by the length of the tunnel, the lack of an adequate water source and the volume of smoke and gas particulates generated by the fire.

“While our Fire Department does not regulate the construction of public roads and highways, they have provided fire protection and life safety recommendations to the California Department of Transportation based on their firefighting experiences in a letter dated October 19, 2007 (Attachment 1).

“The recommendations are to provide:

- A mechanical ventilation system utilizing large exhaust fans for the removal of smoke. This technology has been incorporated into the construction of the two tunnels connecting the 105 and 405 freeways in Hawthorne and Los Angeles. If mechanical ventilation is not feasible, then a passive vertical ventilation system halfway through the tunnel with exhaust outlets located in the median of the freeway should be evaluated as an alternative;

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- A water supply and appliances near the entrance and exit of the tunnel for firefighting purposes. A fire flow of 1,250 gallons per minute for 2 hours would be a minimum recommended design level;
- A zoned manually-operated water/foam based deluge system installed throughout the length of the tunnel;
- An emergency lighting system; and
- A traffic control system with a means to stop approaching traffic from entering the tunnel following activation of a fire alarm within the tunnel.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Chief Executive Officer was directed to prepare a five-signature letter to the California Department of Transportation requesting that they consider for implementation various fire protection and life safety recommendations made by the Los Angeles County Fire Department when repairing the truck tunnel on the Golden State Freeway near the Antelope Valley Freeway in Santa Clarita.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Fire Chief  
Director of Public Works